## APPARATUS FOR MONITORING THE PERFORMANCE OF A DISTRIBUTED SYSTEM

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0035] An apparatus for monitoring the performance of a distributed system is provided. The distributed system comprises a plurality of cooperating units disposed in a communications network. The apparatus comprises a plurality of diagnostic components wherein each unit of the system comprises at least one of the diagnostic components. Each diagnostic component comprises a sensor, a data reduction module, a transceiver and a data analysis module. The sensors sense unit performance characteristics and represent the characteristics as raw data. The data reduction module receives and processes the raw data produced by the sensors to generate reduced data. The transceiver receives the reduced data from the data reduction module and transmits and receives the reduced data to and from the units using the network. The data analysis module accepts and analyzes the reduced data from the transceiver to produce performance data related to the distributed system.